

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 22, 1958

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: 461-L

Further with reference to our briefing on this subject, it is necessary to add the following:

A. The Navy has been fully cooperative in the testing phase of this project. The Chief of Naval Operations does not, however, wish to assign a carrier for launching and a Naval group for recovery operations until the project has received the green light. He is quite correct in his stand.

B. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Quarles who concurs with the CNO. Mr. Quarles left the matter thus: I was to seek to obtain the concurrence of yourself and the Secretary of State, following which the matter was to be brought to the attention of the top membership of the OCB, Mr. Sprague ^{to represent} ~~representing~~ the Defense Department. Mr. Quarles felt that as soon as possible thereafter the question should be brought to the attention of the President.

C. Actually, the Navy will need to have the green light very soon in order that all necessary operational orders can be given and so that the various ships involved can be properly equipped.

D. Ambassador Cumming, while in favor of the project, expressed the opinion that you were the proper person to present this matter for concurrence to the Secretary of State, and that we of the Air Force should be prepared to answer technical and operational questions.

USAF review(s) completed.

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E. In any case, Colonel Gremmler and I stand ready further to brief you, if you so desire, on the progress of this project or to accompany you as back-up personnel in any presentation to the Secretary of State, the OCB, or the President.

Colonel Gremmler and I will be out of the country from 28 April until 5 May in order fully to acquaint the Commanders of NATO, USAFE, 3rd Air Force and others with the plans for this reconnaissance program. During our absence the most knowledgeable individual will be Major Richard Braun of Cambridge Research. He can be made available by a call to Major Clark Sykes on extension 56242.

Frederick Ayer, Jr.

Frederick Ayer, Jr.
Special Assistant for Intelligence

cc: Secretary Quarles
Secretary of the Air Force
Chief of Naval Operations
Mr. Hugh Cumming (Special
Assistant to Secretary of State)